



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Gerald L. Downie died in 2000, having served  
3 as a physician in Kankakee, Ill. for more than 50 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Gerald L. Downie was born in 1903 and was educated  
5 in a one-room schoolhouse in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, later graduating as  
6 the top student at Simpson College; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Downie graduated from Northwestern Medical  
8 School and served his internship at Kankakee State Hospital,  
9 now known as Shapiro Developmental Center; and

10 WHEREAS, From 1932 through 1950 Dr. Downie and his wife,  
11 Maurine, served three times as medical missionaries for the  
12 United Methodist Church in China, leaving for a one-year  
13 furlough in 1937, just as the Japanese invaded, and leaving the  
14 final time after spending nine months under communist rule; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Downie also served as a medical missionary in  
16 India, Africa, Taiwan, and Malaysia before returning to  
17 Kankakee County, where he practiced medicine until he reached  
18 the age of 89; and

19 WHEREAS, The State Route 17 bridge across the Kankakee  
20 River in Kankakee is now known as the Court Street Bridge;  
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
23 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
24 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Court Street Bridge in  
25 Kankakee be designated the Dr. Gerald L. Downie Bridge; and be  
26 it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
28 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with

1 State regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving notice  
2 of the name; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
4 delivered to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of  
5 Transportation and to Kankakee Mayor Donald E. Green.